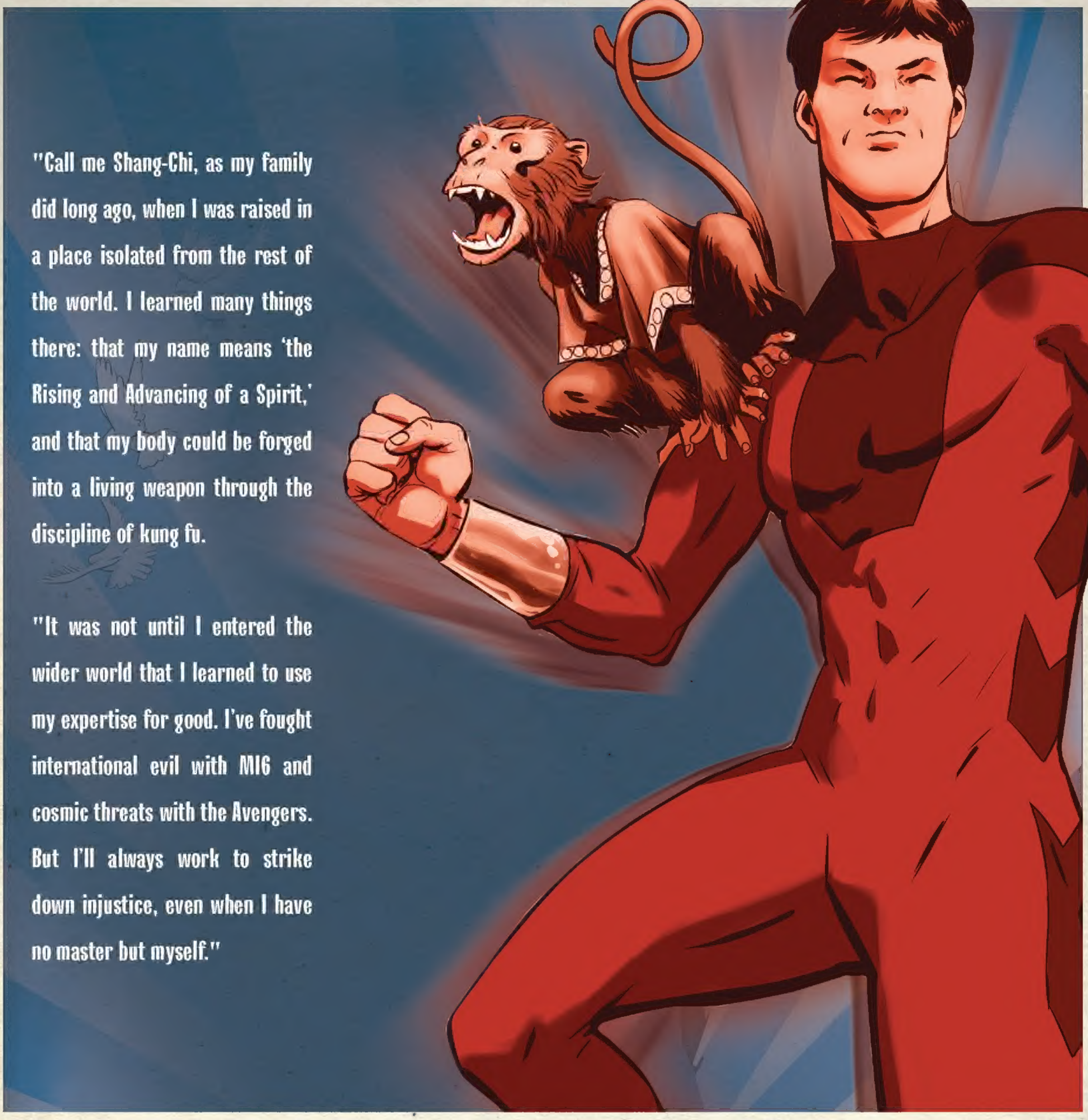
MARVEL LEGACY

SHANG-CHI'S DAY OFF PART 1 OF 1

126

MASTER OF KUNG FU

PUNK TALAJIĆ ARCINIEGA



"Call me Shang-Chi, as my family did long ago, when I was raised in a place isolated from the rest of the world. I learned many things there: that my name means 'the Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu.

"It was not until I entered the wider world that I learned to use my expertise for good. I've fought international evil with MI6 and cosmic threats with the Avengers. But I'll always work to strike down injustice, even when I have no master but myself."

MARVEL COMICS proudly presents

MASTER OF KUNG FU

in "SHANG-CHI'S DAY OFF"

title page
ANTHONY GAMBINO
editor
KATHLEEN WISNESKI
supervising editor
NICK LOWE
editor in chief
AXEL ALONSO
chief creative officer
JOE QUESADA
president
DAN BUCKLEY
executive producer
ALAN FINE

© 2017 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

...THAT'S RIGHT, CAROL. AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE BIZARRE SINKHOLE OPENED AROUND MIDNIGHT LAST NIGHT. NO INJURIES TO REPORT, BUT A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ZOO HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE BELOVED OCTOPUS, RUTH, IS AMONG THE ANIMALS MISSING AT THIS TIME.

TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT.

RUTH THE OCTOPUS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE TRAVELED INTO THE SEWER SYSTEM VIA THE SINKHOLE, AND A SEARCH IS CURRENTLY ON FOR ONE OF THE ZOO'S BIGGEST ATTRACTIONS.

TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE.

EEP.

WELL, CAROL, LOOKS LIKE SEEING IF THE SEAT IS UP OR DOWN WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES TONIGHT! *AM I RIGHT?*

THREE HUNDRED! GOOD JOB, CHEE!

YOU DISGUST ME, DAVID.

WE'VE EARNED A TREAT. LET'S GO GET SOME ICE CREAM.

EEP! EEP! EEP!

SHANG-CHI'S DAY OFF

CM PUNK
WRITER

DALIBOR TALAJIĆ
ARTIST

ERICK ARCINIEGA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM
LETTERER

JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ
COVER ARTIST

MIKE MAYHEW; JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER, DUSTIN WEAVER & JUSTIN PONSOR [TRADING CARD COVER AND INSERT]
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

"WE CAN PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF NEAR THE ZOO. MAYBE THAT ICE CREAM TRUCK WILL BE THERE!"

HELLO, FRIEND!
HEY, ALRIGHT! SHANG-CHI!
HELLO! MY FRIEND AND I WOULD LOVE SOME ICE CREAM. I NEED A DOUBLE SCOOP OF MINT CHOCOLATE CHIP, AND HE NEEDS A SINGLE SCOOP OF DATE ICE CREAM. NO CONE.
EEEEP!!! EEP!
OH GEEZ, GUYS, I'M NOT SURE THERE IS ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE...
...AND I'M CERTAINLY NOT PAYING FOR YOU.

WHIFF

WOOSH

SWIFFFF

SPLAT

HAAAA!

KRACK

GRAB THAT STUPID LITTLE APE. SHANG-CHI WON'T DO A THING IF WE THREATEN TO MAKE A HAT OUT OF IT.

SKREEEEEEE!

OH GOD! OH MY EYEEEEEESSS!

I KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN!

RUN! GO GO GO GO GO!

I REALLY HOPE YOU CALLED FOR BACKUP, BECAUSE AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO MY ICE CREAM...

YOU TOOK THE BAIT, SHANG-CHI! WE LED YOU INTO A TRAP. HOPE YOU BROUGHT MORE MONKEYS!

REEE?

RUMBBBLE

HAVE A NICE TRIP, SHANG-CHI!

SEE YA NEXT *FALL!*

UGH. BRAD. COME ON. WE AGREED YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

IS THIS IT?

NO, IT'S A FEW DOORS UP AHEAD ON THE LEFT, I THINK.

SO WHAT WERE YOU SAYING AGAIN? YOU GOT OTHER OPTIONS?

WELL, I'M NOT SAYING ***OPTIONS,*** BUT I GOT OPTIONS, YA KNOW? I'M ONLY REALLY DOING THIS TO PAY MY WAY THROUGH SCHOOL. I DON'T ***HAVE*** TO BE DOING THIS IS WHAT I'M SAYING.

I DON'T EVEN REALLY HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST SHANG-CHI--JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS, REALLY... THIS IS THE DOOR RIGHT HERE.

OKAY, SO NOW WE JUST STAND HERE? WHAT EXACTLY DO WE DO? SHOULD I HAVE PACKED A LUNCH?

YOU DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING TO EAT? WE COULD BE HERE A WHILE. WE'RE JUST SUPPOSED TO WAIT UNTIL DR. PRASIS COMES TO GET SHANG-CHI.

HE CREEPS ME OUT. I GET WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO...ACTUALLY, OKAY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO. HE CREEPS ME OUT.

WHO? MEL? I'VE SEEN WORSE. AT LEAST HE'S NOT--

WAIT, WHO IS MEL?

DR. PRASIS! YOU DIDN'T THINK HIS FIRST NAME WAS "DOCTOR," DID YOU? I SWEAR, YOU ROOKIES...

MEL?! DOCTOR MEL PRASIS?!? THAT'S WHO WE ARE WORKING FOR? ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

YEAH, WHY? YOU KNOW HIM?

MEL PRASIS! ***MALPRACTICE!*** THE EVIL GENIUS WE ARE WORKING FOR HAS A NAME THAT SOUNDS LIKE...

WHOA, WHOA. LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE, BUDDY. YOU THINK HE'S ***EVIL?*** HE'S NOT THAT BAD. YOU SHOULD MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE I'VE WORKED FOR WHO ARE ***STILL WITH*** THE HAND. I MEAN, SURE, THERE'S THE HIRING US TO KIDNAP ANIMALS, BUT REALLY IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT--

AHEM...

IS THE PATIENT READY?

UM! YESSIR!

STRAPPED AND SECURED, JUST LIKE YOU ASKED, SIR!

GOOD, GOOD. YOU TWO GO MAKE SURE THE OTHER PATIENT IS READY. I'D LIKE A MOMENT ALONE WITH THIS ONE.

WELL, WELL, ***MASTER OF KUNG FU,*** I'M SURE YOU'RE WAKING UP QUITE SURPRISED TO BE IN THIS LITTLE PREDICAMENT. THE RESTRAINTS ARE MERELY FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, AS IS THE SEDATIVE I'VE GIVEN YOU.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY NAME IS--

DR. MEL PRASIS. A TRULY UNFORTUNATE NAME FOR A DOCTOR. YOU COULD NOT ESCAPE THE ASSOCIATIONS EVEN IN YOUR...UNUSUAL FIELD.

OH MY! I SUPPOSE MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME. THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW NEVER TO CALL ME--

MALPRACTICE.

NO! DON'T CALL ME THAT! IT'S ***PRASIS!*** I AM A ***GENIUS!***

ONE WOULD THINK YOU WOULD BE A BIT HUMBLED AFTER BEING SO EASILY--

CAPTURED?

YES. CAPTURED. THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE. CAPTURED. IN FACT--

MEL. I SAID I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SO CAN WE PLEASE SKIP THE PART WHERE YOU EXPLAIN YOUR EVIL SCHEME?

WELL. NO. WAIT A SECOND! THIS IS MY FAVORITE PART! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO--

PULL?

STOP THAT!

THE TIME FOR TALKING IS DONE. YOU WILL NOW LISTEN TO ME. I SAY I KNOW YOU BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN ON TO YOU AND YOUR...I'LL BE GENEROUS AND SAY HAND SPLINTER CELL, FOR WEEKS.

"IT ALL STARTED WITH THE RATS. THE REST OF THE WORLD FOCUSED ON THE PIZZA, BUT I SAW WHAT NO ONE ELSE COULD IN THEIR MOVEMENTS--NOT RANDOM TICS, BUT KUNG FU.

"HARMLESS ENOUGH--ABSURD, EVEN. BUT I WAS ALARMED.

"KNOWING SOMETHING CRIMINAL WAS HAPPENING WAS ONE THING, BUT WHEN THERE WAS A SPIKE IN MISSING PETS IN THE AREA--THEN, I GOT ANGRY.

"IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO FIND THE CAUSE OF ALL THE MISSING ANIMALS.

"NINJAS IN BROAD DAYLIGHT TRYING TO ADOPT RESCUE ANIMALS MIGHT BE ONE OF THE STUPIDEST THINGS I HAVE EVER HEARD OF...

"...BUT I KNEW THEY WERE DANGEROUS. WHOEVER HIRED THEM WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR MARTIAL ARTS PROWESS THAN THEIR SUBTLETY.

"I FOLLOWED THEM FOR WEEKS, IN AND OUT OF SEWERS--

"--TRYING TO FIND WHERE THEY WERE TAKING THE ANIMALS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WHY.

"UNTIL ONE DAY I FOUND SOMETHING I WISHED I HADN'T.

"BELOW THE STREETS, I SAW THE BODIES OF ALL MANNER OF ANIMALS. ONCE BELOVED PETS, NOW DISCARDED AND COVERED IN SCARS FROM EXPERIMENTAL OPERATIONS. IT BROUGHT ME TO MY KNEES.

"A PERSON WHO CAN ABUSE AND DISCARD THE INNOCENT IS CAPABLE OF ANYTHING.

"IT WAS IN THIS DARKEST HOUR THAT A LIGHT SHOWED THROUGH. I DISCOVERED ONE BRAVE SOUL, TERRIFIED DUE TO THE HORRORS HE HAD EXPERIENCED, BUT VERY MUCH ALIVE.

"I RESCUED THIS ANIMAL AND TRIED TO PUT WHAT I SAW BEHIND ME AS I INTENSIFIED MY SEARCH FOR THE MADMAN RESPONSIBLE.

"I TRIED TO DROP THE LITTLE MONKEY OFF AT A SHELTER, BUT TO NO AVAIL. HE WOULD NOT LEAVE MY SIDE. HE SEEMED TO TRUST ME, AND SO I NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH.

"I EVENTUALLY NAMED THE LITTLE MONKEY CHEE, AND HE TOOK A LIKING TO KUNG FU, SO I BEGAN TO TRAIN WITH HIM.

"I BEGAN TO REALIZE SOMEONE HAD ALREADY TAUGHT HIM--OR FORCED HIM TO LEARN. THE ***SAME PERSON,*** POSSIBLY, WHO GAVE THE RATS THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

"I RETRACED MY STEPS AND REALIZED MOST OF THE MANHOLES THESE NINJAS USED WERE CENTERED AROUND ONE LOCATION: THE PROSPECT PARK ZOO.

KZOO

"I WAS PREPARED TO USE MY S.I.S. AND HOMELAND SECURITY CONNECTIONS TO IDENTIFY MY TARGET, BUT THE ZOO WAS VERY HELPFUL AND PROVIDED WHAT I NEEDED TO CRACK THE CASE.

"THEY EXPLAINED THAT A FORMER DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE--***YOU,*** DR. PRASIS--WOULD BEHAVE STRANGELY WITH THE ANIMALS, OFTEN SPEAKING TO THEM ABOUT OLD SAMMO HUNG FILMS.

"YOU WERE EVENTUALLY FIRED FOR TRYING TO SMUGGLE RUTH, THE BELOVED OCTOPUS, OUT OF THE ZOO ON YOUR LUNCH BREAK."

I QUIT, I WAS NOT FIRED.

AND GOOD FOR YOU FOR PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER! YOU STILL ARE MISSING ONE PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, AND IT'S THE BIGGEST ONE!

YOU'RE MY NEXT EXPERIMENT!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE CULMINATION OF MY LIFE'S WORK, STRIVING TIRELESSLY FOR ***YEARS*** TO DEVELOP AN ARMY OF KUNG FU ANIMALS PAYS OFF ***TONIGHT!***

SURELY THIS WILL GET ME BACK INTO THE HAND AFTER THAT LITTLE CHRISTMAS PARTY SNAFU!

YOU SEE, SHANG-CHI, I'VE TRIED TO TRAIN ANIMALS. I'VE USED DARK ARTS, MODERN TECHNOLOGY, AND THE BEST ANIMAL PSYCHOLOGISTS THAT DIDN'T CHARGE TOO MUCH. NONE OF IT WORKED.

YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO KUNG FU, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM KICK. THAT'S NOT JUST A FUNNY SAYING--I WANTED KUNG FU HORSES.

PROBLEM IS, WHILE I CAN TEACH ANIMALS KUNG FU, I CAN'T CONTROL THEM. NOT FULLY--THEIR BASE INSTINCTS ARE TOO STRONG. ***BRAIN SURGERY*** IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET WHAT I NEED!

I FINALLY HAVE THE TOOLS AND THE TALENT TO MAKE AN ARMY OF KUNG FU SOLDIERS THAT WILL ANSWER ONLY TO ME! IT STARTS WITH ***YOU,*** SHANG-CHI, AND IMPLANTING YOUR BEAUTIFUL KUNG FU BRAIN INTO ***RUTH THE OCTOPUS!!!***

I WILL BE FREE OF THESE SHACKLES IN 22 SECONDS. IF YOU ALL START RUNNING NOW, YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ESCAPING.

HA! GUY'S GOT JOKES!

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE AN OCTOPUS, BUD.

YEAH, HOW YOU FIGURE YOU'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF THOSE SHACKLES, KARATE KID?

EE AH HA!

RAAA!

OH, CRAP! IT'S...I CAN'T SEE!

STOP HIM!

BONK

GOOD JOB, CHEE! LOOK OUT!

THWACK

WHAT DO I PAY YOU FOR?! STOP HIM!!!

LET'S GET HIM!

WE GET PAID?

ALL RIGHT, CHEE...

...LET'S GO.

HAI!

POK

OW!

ARGH! ALWAYS WITH THE EYES!

SMACK

KIK!

GRAB HIM!

I'VE GOT HIM!

STOMP

AAAAYYEEEEE!

HELLO, DAVE? YES, GET MY BOAT READY. NO, NO, NO. EVERYTHING IS FINE!

JUST GOING TO GO OUT AND PICK UP SOME PIZZA FOR THE BOYS.

PLEASE HURRY-- THEY'RE, AH--VERY HUNGRY.

DOCTOR! WE CAN'T STOP HIM!

=HUFF HUFF HUFF=

WE CAN'T EVEN SLOW HIM DOWN!

UH...YEAH, THAT'S FINE. I'M CALLING FOR BACK-UP RIGHT NOW.

PRASIS!!!

PRASIS!

YOU CAN'T RUN!

YOU'RE OUT OF NINJAS, *AND* TIME, PRASIS!

RUU?

YOU'RE RIGHT, CHEE. FIRST THINGS FIRST.

I'M SORRY THIS HAPPENED TO YOU.

YOU ARE FREE NOW. NOT ALL HUMANS ARE MONSTERS.

SEE YA LATER, SUCKERS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING AWAY!

UFF!

WHOOOOOOSH

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M NOT GETTING AWAY!

SPLAT

SLAP

CRACK

WELL, WE THANK YOU AGAIN, SHANG-CHI! AND THANKS FOR THE SELFIE!

IT'S JUST A SHAME YOU NEVER FOUND RUTH. THE ZOO WILL BE DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR THAT NEWS.

GLAD I COULD ASSIST, OFFICER. AS FAR AS RUTH GOES, SHE COULD BE IN THE OCEAN BY NOW!

WELL, CHEE, THAT WAS ONE WAY TO SPEND OUR DAY OFF!

REE?

LET'S GO SEE ABOUT THAT ICE CREAM!

THE END.

ZONE